

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) Method as recited in claim 14 21 further comprising machining said pressure consolidated blend from said step (e) to final desired shape.

16. (Currently Amended) Method as recited in claim 14 21 wherein said agglomerated blend comprises from about 40 - about 80 atomic percent Me W, about 60 - about 20 atomic percent Si₃N₄ with said the atomic percent of said Si₃N₄ and said Me W equaling about 100 atomic percent, said sintering aid being MgO being present in an amount of between about 0.05-6 weight percent based on the weight of said Si₃N₄.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) Method as recited in claim 16 further comprising conducting said pressure consolidating step (e) (d) in an inert gaseous atmosphere.

19. (Original) Method as recited in claim 18 wherein said pressure is greater than about 1 atmosphere.

20. (Original) Method as recited in claim 19 wherein pressure consolidation is conducted at temperatures of about 900°C-1700°C.

21. (New) Method of making a sputter target for sputtering a heater layer of an ink jet printer comprising:

- (a) providing W metal powder, Si₃N₄ powder and MgO;
- (b) blending said W metal powder, Si₃N₄ powder and MgO to form an agglomerated blend, screening said agglomerated blend to result in an agglomerated blend of less than 300 microns in dimension; and
- (c) pressure consolidating said agglomerated blend of less than 300 microns under heated conditions for a time sufficient to form a consolidated blend having an actual density of greater than 95% of the theoretical density.